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- (54) [TITLE OF THE INVENTION] Black zirconia ceramic sinter and method for production thereof

## (57) [ABSTRACT]

[Object] In the black zirconia ceramics for to be used as a black decorating material in watch frames, necktiepins, etc., black zirconia ceramics endowed with enhanced smoothness, sensation of depth, and uniform tint without sacrificing the high strength inherent in zirconia ceramics is provided.

[Construction] A black zirconia ceramic sinter having a black color of sensorial degree in the range of L\* < 48, -2 < a\* < 2, -2 < b\* < 2 based on JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard) Z8729 and exhibiting flexural strength of not less than 100 kg/mm² is obtained by compounding 95 ~ 99.5 weight % of partially stabilized ZrO<sub>2</sub> powder and a total of 0.5 ~ 5 weight % of a blackening agent, comprising 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight % each of at least one species selected respectively from carbides and oxides, mixing and pulverizing them, and sintering the resultant powder in a vacuum of not more than 10 Torrs at a temperature in the range of 1300 ~ 1600°C till the relative density thereof reaches a level of not lower than 93%.

# [SCOPE OF CLAIM FOR PATENT]

[Claim 1] In a sinter having a partially stabilized zirconia as a main component and containing as a blackening agent at least one species selected respectively from carbides and oxides, a black zirconia ceramic sinter assuming a black color of sensorial degree in the range of  $L^* < 48$ ,  $-2 < a^* < 2$ ,  $-2 < b^* < 2$  based on JIS Z8729 and exhibiting flexural strength of not less than 100 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>.

[Claim 2] A black zirconia ceramic sinter according to claim 1, wherein said blackening agent comprises at least one species each of the carbides of Group IVa as a first component, the oxides of Group Va and Group VIa as a second component, and the oxides of Group IIa and Group VIII as a third component, severally in an amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight % and totally in an amount in the range of 0.5 ~ 5.0 weight %.

[Claim 3] A black zirconia ceramic sinter according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said blackening agent comprises the oxides of at least one species from among Ti, C, and Hf as a first component and of at least one species from among Cr, Mo, W, V, and Ta as a second component, and the oxides of at least one species from among Fe, Co, Ni, and Mg as a third component, severally in an amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight % and totally in an amount in the range of 0.5 ~ 5.0 weight %.

[Claim 4] Ablackening zirconia ceramic sinter according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said black zirconia ceramics contains  $Al_2O_3$  as a fourth component in an amount in the range of 0.1 - 2.0 weight %.

[Claim 5] A method for the production of a black zirconia ceramic sinter set forth in any of claims  $1 \sim 4$ , characterized by obtaining a sinter having a relative density of not less than 93% by compounding  $95 \sim 99.5$  weight % of partially stabilized  $ZrO_2$  powder and a total of  $0.5 \sim 5$  weight % of a blackening agent, comprising  $0.1 \sim 2.0$  weight % each of at least one species selected respectively from carbides and oxides, mixing and pulverizing them, and sintering the resultant powder in a vacuum of not more than 10 Torrs at a temperature in the range of  $1300 \sim 1600^{\circ}$ C.

[Claim 6] A method according to claim 5, wherein said blackening agent incorporates therein at least one species each of the carbides of Group IVa as a first component, the oxides of Group Va and Group VIa as a second component, and the oxides of Group IIa and Group VIII as a third component, severally in an amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight % and totally in an amount in the range of 0.5 ~ 5.0 weight %.

[Claim 7] A method according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said blackening agent incorporates therein the oxides of at least one species from among Ti, C, and Hf as a first component and of at least one species from among Cr, Mo, W, V, and Ta as a second component, and the oxides of at least one species from among Fe, Co, Ni, and Mg as a third component,

severally in an amount in the range of  $0.1 \sim 2.0$  weight % and totally in an amount in the range of  $0.5 \sim 5.0$  weight %.

[Claim 8] A method according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein said black zirconia ceramics incorporates therein  $Al_2O_3$  as a fourth component in an amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight %.

[Claim 9] In the production of a black zirconia ceramic sinter, a method for the production of a black zirconia ceramic sinter set forth in any of claims  $5 \sim 8$ , characterized by including after the step of sintering a sintering step of applying to the produced sinter a hot hydrostatic pressure of not less than 200 kg/cm² at a temperature in the range of  $1300 \sim 1500^{\circ}$ C.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[0001]

[Field of industrial utilization] This invention relates to materials using a black zirconia sinter such as, for example, black decorating materials represented by spikes, watch frames, watch bracelets, necktie pines, and buttons.

[0002]

[Prior Art] The zirconia sinter excels in such mechanical properties as toughness and flexural strength and, therefore, is expected to find utility in a wide range of fields. Particularly, the zirconia sinter endowed with a blackened color tone has been in use as such decorating articles as watch frames, watch bracelets, necktie pins, and buttons.

[0003] Concerning the technique for coloring high-strength  $\rm ZrO_2$ , various attempts are now under way. As the means for this coloration, the method which consists in adding a coloring component to  $\rm ZrO_2$  forms the leading faction.

[0004] (1) The official gazette of JP-A-60-90872, for example, discloses black  $\rm ZrO_2$  which is obtained by compounding stabilized  $\rm ZrO_2$  and a small amount of carbon and sintering the resultant mixture in

a reducing atmosphere till carbon and zirconium carbide are formed. Then, (2) blackened ZrO<sub>2</sub> obtained by disposing carbon on the periphery of a shaped piece of ZrO<sub>2</sub> and sintering the coated shaped piece in a non-oxidizing atmosphere thereby impregnating the shaped piece with carbon and effecting formation of carbon and zirconium carbide similarly to the official gazette mentioned in (1) is disclosed in the official gazette of JP-A-63-100059. Further, (3) a similar method which further comprises adding a coloring component formed of a metal composition of elements of Groups IVa, Va, VIa, VIIa, and VIIIa in the periodic Table of the Elements is disclosed in the official gazette of JP-B-07-12978. Also, (4) the addition of a coloring agent formed of similar oxides in conjunction with carbon is disclosed in the official gazette of JP-B-03-9062.

[0005] Besides, the fact that blackened  $ZrO_2$  is obtained at a temperature of not lower than  $1200^{\circ}C$  when a  $ZrO_2$  sinter incorporating therein such a stabilizing agent as  $Y_2O_3$  is treated in a reducing atmosphere is disclosed in JP-B-03-67983.

[0006]

[Problem to be solved by the invention] Regarding (1) ~ (4) of the prior techniques described above, the relevant sinters are liable to produce differences in the degree of blackening because carbon persist as a simple substance therein, particularly copiously inside as compared with the surface. Further, also regarding the prior technique of (5), the uniformity of coloration is problematic because differences tend to occur in the state of reduction between the surface and the interior of the sinter.

[0007] This invention has been accomplished as a result of a diligent study pursued with a view to overcoming the problem pointed out above. It is aimed at providing black zirconia ceramics endowed with enhanced smoothness, sensation of depth, and uniform tint without sacrificing the high strength inherent in zirconia ceramics and a method

for the production thereof.

[8000]

[Means to solve the problem] For the purpose of solving the problem mentioned above, this invention contemplates providing as a sinter having partially stabilized zirconia as a main component and containing a blackening agent formed of at least one species selected respectively from carbides and oxides, a black zirconia ceramic sinter assuming a black color of sensorial degree in the range of  $L^* < 48$ ,  $-2 < a^* < 2$ ,  $-2 < b^* < 2$  based on JIS Z8729 and exhibiting flexural strength of not less than 100 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>.

[0009] Then, the method for the production of a black zirconia ceramic sinter according to this invention obtains a black zirconia ceramic sinter having a relative density of not less than 93% by compounding 95  $\sim$  99.5 weight % of partially stabilized  $\rm ZrO_2$  powder and a total of 0.5  $\sim$  5 weight % of a blackening agent, comprising 0.1  $\sim$  2.0 weight % each of at least one species selected respectively from carbides and oxides, mixing and pulverizing them, and sintering the resultant powder in a vacuum of not more than 10 Torrs at a temperature in the range of 1300  $\sim$  1600°C.

[0010] Incidentally, the aforementioned blackening agent which is used in this invention preferably contains at least one species each of the carbides of Group IVa as a first component, the oxides of Group Va and Group VIa as a second component, and the oxides of Group IIa and Group VIII as a third component, severally in an amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight % and totally in an amount in the range of 0.5 ~ 5.0 weight %.

[0011] Further, it is proper to use the oxides of at least one species from among Ti, C, and Hf as a first component and of at least one species from among Cr, Mo, W, V, and Ta as a second component, and the oxides of at least one species from among Fe, Co, Ni, and Mg as a third component and incorporate  $Al_2O_3$  as a third component in an

amount in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight %.

[0012] Then, the method for the production of the black zirconia ceramic sinter mentioned above may include after the step of sintering a sintering step of applying to the produced sinter a hot hydrostatic pressure of not less than 200 kg/cm $^2$  at a temperature in the range of 1300  $\sim$  1500 $^{\circ}$ C.

[0013]

[Operation] The black zirconia ceramic sinter according to this invention is formed of ceramics using a known substance as a stabilizer. As the stabilizer, it is proper to use  $Y_2O_3$  or  $CeO_2$ , for example.

[0014] The zirconia ceramics is sintered in a solid state. When it incorporates a blackening agent besides the stabilizing agent, the produced sinter fails to acquire fine mechanical properties when the proportion of the zirconia powder falls short of 95 weight %. The produced sinter suffers deficiency in the coloring effect when the proportion exceeds 99.5 weight %.

[0015] When a metal oxide or a metal carbide is singly added as a blackening agent for the purpose of imparting a black color to the zirconia ceramics, it is generally necessary to add this blacking agent in a large amount. This addition, therefore, tends to deteriorate the sintering property and degrade the mechanical properties. It is, therefore, necessary to blacken the zirconia ceramic effectively by using the additives in the smallest possible amounts.

[0016] For this invention, it is important that the metal carbide and the metal oxide be added simultaneously. By adding these two compounds, it is made possible to attain uniform blackening of the zirconia ceramics effectively at small application rates of the additives.

[0017] In this case, the carbide as the first component is preferred to comprise an element of Group IVa and the content thereof is in the range of 0.1 - 2.0 weight %. In the elements of Group IVa,

Ti and Hf prove to be particularly favorable.

[0018] The content of the oxide is in the range of 0.1 ~ 2.0 weight %. The second component is selected from among the oxides of the elements of Group Va and group VIa and the third element is selected from among the oxides of the elements of Group IIa and group VIII. It is necessary to select at least one species each of the compounds of these components. Cr, Mo, W, V, and Ta are particularly suitable for the second component and Fe, Co, Ni, and Mg for the third component.

[0019] The total amount of the first ~ third components to be added is in the range of 0.5 ~ 5.0 weight %. If the amount of each of the components falls short of 0.1 weight %, the addition of these components will not bring the effect aimed at. If the amount exceeds 2.0 weight %, the excess will be at a disadvantage in deteriorating the state of dispersion of the relevant components with other additives and degrading the smoothness of coloration. Then, if the total amount of the blackening agent falls short of 0.5 weight %, the shortage will be at a disadvantage in rendering difficult the manifestation of the effect of deep and smooth coloration aimed at by this invention, though the uniform black tone may be attained. If it exceeds 5.0 weight %, the excess will be at a disadvantage in failing to attain any proportional addition to the effect of coloration, conversely degrading the sintering property, and consequently deteriorating the mechanical properties. Occasionally, this excess will possibly produce a color other than the black and consequently induce deviation from the range of sensorial color designated by this invention.

[0020] The  $\mathrm{Al}_2\mathrm{O}_3$  is added because the blackening agent, when added in an unduly large amount, possibly induces so conspicuous growth of grains as to require use of the added  $\mathrm{Al}_2\mathrm{O}_3$  as a depressant against the growth.

[0021] The black zirconia ceramic sinter contemplated by this invention contains oxides and carbides mentioned above. The carbides

and the oxides may be allowed to form joint compounds or the oxides may react with each other to form a complex compound.

[0022] Now, the sintering performed in accordance with this invention and the effect of HIP will be described below.

[0023] For the purpose of producing black zirconia possessing a deflective strength of not less than 100 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>, this invention requires the sintering to be performed under a degree of vacuum of not more than 10 Torrs. If the sintering is carried out under a degree of vacuum lower than 10 Torrs, the surface of the sinter will tend to be oxidized and consequently made to assume a white color.

[0024] The temperature of the sintering is preferred to be in the range of  $1300\,^{\circ}$ C. For, the temperature falling short of  $1300\,^{\circ}$ C will compel the sinter to become deficient in denseness of texture and the temperature exceeding  $1600\,^{\circ}$ C will cause the sinter to suffer from unduly remarkable growth of grains and consequent degradation of strength.

[0025] Further, for the purpose of enabling the produced sinter to acquire a deflective strength of not less than 100 kg/mm<sup>2</sup>, the sintering must be carried out so that the relative density may reach a level of not less than 93%.

[0026] As respects the conditions for further performing the HIP after the sintering, the temperature must be in the range of  $1300 - 1600^{\circ}$ C and the pressure must be not less than  $200 \text{ kg/cm}^2$  for the same reason as given above. If the pressure falls short of  $200 \text{ kg/cm}^2$ , the shortage will prevent the pores remaining in the sinter after termination of the sintering from being effectively removed and preclude the texture of the sinter from gaining in density.

[0027] To define the degree of blackening of the zirconia ceramic sinter blackened in accordance with this invention by the sensorial color using the L\*a\*b\* color system defined by JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard) Z8729, the color must fulfill the ranges of L\* < 48, -2 <

a\* < 2, and -2 < b\* < 2.

[0028] Here, L\* denotes brilliance and a\* and b\* each denote chromaticity. The sinter grows white as the magnitude of L\* heightens, assumes a red color as the magnitude of a\* heightens and a green color as this magnitude lowers, and assumes a yellow color as the magnitude of b\* heightens and a blue color as this magnitude lowers.

[0029] The sensorial color of a given sample depends on the surface roughness of the sample. Thus, the numerical values designated by this invention represent the sensorial colo which exists when the surface roughness of a given sample satisfies the condition of Ra < 0.92  $\mu$ m.

[0030] The sensorial color, particularly the brilliance L\*, is degraded in proportion as the surface of a given sample gains in roughness. When the black zirconia ceramic sinter disclosed by this invention is worked to a surface roughness of Ra < 0.02  $\mu$ m and measured for sensorial color, these ranges are found to be L\*< 48, -2 < a\* < 2, -2 < b\* < 2. When the same sinter is worked so as to acquire surface roughness of Ra = 0.5  $\mu$ m, the sensorial color has the magnitude of L\* degraded by a margin of about 16.

[0031] Then, under the condition, Ra < 0.02  $\mu$ m, the degree of smooth blackness with exalted sensation of depth satisfies the ranges, L\* <6, -0.3 < a\* < 0.3, -0.3 < b\* < 0.3.

[0032]

#### [EMBODIMENTS]

(Example 1) An embossed piece measuring 5 mm (width)  $\times$  45 mm (length)  $\times$  4 mm (thickness) was obtained by mixing a partially stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$  powder containing  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  (having an average particle diameter of 0.4  $\mu$ m) and a powdered blackening agent having a varying composition shown in Table 1 (invariably having an average particle diameter of 0.6  $\mu$ m) and forming the mixed powder under a pressure of 500 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

[0033] This embossed piece was sintered in a vacuum furnace of

 $10^{-2}$  Torr at a temperature of  $1500^{\circ}$ C for three hours. Then, part of the sample was subjected to the HIP in an atmosphere of argon gas under a pressure of  $1000~\text{kg/cm}^2$  at  $1400^{\circ}$ C for one hour.

[0034] The sinter obtained as described above was worked by grinding into a test piece measuring 4 mm (width)  $\times$  36 mm (length)  $\times$  3 mm (thickness) and the test piece was measured for flexural strength, relative density, and electric conductivity. Further, the test piece was worked till the surface roughness reached Ra < 0.02  $\mu$ m and measured for sensorial color. The results are shown in Table 2.

[0035]

[Table 1]

Table 1
Composition (the numerals denominated in weight %)

			starb denomi	nacca in we	raire s)						
			Blackening agent								
No.	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	First	Second	Third	Fourth						
-		component	component	component	component						
*1	97.0	TiC	/	/	/						
		3.0									
*2	97.0	/ ·	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	/						
	<del></del>		2.0	1.0							
3	97.0	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	/						
		0.6	1.4	1.0							
4	96.8	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>						
		0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7						

<sup>\*</sup> Comparative example

[0036]

[Table 2]

Table 2
Results of measurement with test piece

			T		1 2 0 2 5		
ł	Flexural	Relative	Charpy	Sensorial color		Electric	
No.	strength	density	impact				conduc-
	(kg/mm²)	( % )	strength	L*	a*	b*	tivity
			(kgf/cm²)				$(\Omega^{-1}/\mathtt{cm})$
*1	82	90.3	0.103	52.9	-1.6	+1.9	2.6×10 <sup>-6</sup>
*2	91	91.4	0.141	54.6	-1.3	+1.9	8.7×10 <sup>-8</sup>
3	126	98.3	0.281	43.1	-1.1	+0.8	4.0×10 <sup>-8</sup>
4	153	99.0	0.289	43.9	-1.8	+1.1	4.0×10 <sup>-8</sup>
☆3	159	99.4	0.293	42.6	-1.6	+2.0	4.0×10 <sup>-8</sup>
☆4	181	99.6	0.296	42.1	-1.2	+1.6	4.0×10 <sup>-8</sup>

[0037] When these sinters were dispersed into X-ray diffraction patterns,  $\text{ZrO}_2$  peaks of the tetragonal system and the monoclinic system and the peaks of the relevant blackening agents were detected.

[0038] It is clear from the results shown above that No. 1 adding solely a carbide thereto as a blackening agent revealed an insufficient degree of blackening, showed a discernible sign of uneven coloration on part of the surface, and betrayed deficiency in flexural strength. Then, No. 2 adding solely an oxide thereto was found not only to be deficient in the degree of blackening but also to be inferior in flexural strength.

[0039] Further, the sinters of 3 and 4 which had further undergone the HIP treatment were found to have acquired enhanced relative density and added to the density of texture. Thus, the flexural strength and the Charpy impact strength were found to be further

exalted. In all the samples except that of No. 1, the magnitudes of electric conductivity were not more than  $10^{-7}~\Omega^{-1}/\text{cm}$ .

[0040] (Example 2) The mixed powders obtained by mixing the same partially stabilized  $\rm ZrO_2$  powder as used in Example 1 and powdered blackening agents of varying compositions shown in Table 3 (invariably having an average particle diameter of 0.6  $\mu$ m) were formed and sintered under the same conditions as in Example 1. Part of the samples were further subjected to the HIP under the same conditions as in example 1.

[0041] The sinters obtained as described above were worked into test pieces in the same manner as in Example 1 and the test pieces were tested for the same characteristic properties as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 4.

[0042]

[Table 3]

Table 3
Composition of components (the numerals denominated in weight %)

			<del></del>	ackening age	nt	ucigne
No.	ZrO <sub>2</sub>			]	Ī	1
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Subtotal
		component	component	component	component	
5	96.8	WC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> MgO		Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
		0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7	
б	96.8	TaC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
	<u> </u>	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7	
7	96.8	HfC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
	<u> </u>	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7	
8	96.8	TiC	$V_2O_3$	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
		0.6	1.0	0.9	0.7	
9	97.5	TiC	$V_2O_3$	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	/	2.5
		0.6	1.0	0.9		
10	97.5	HfC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	/	2.5
		0.6	1.0	0.9		
11	94.0	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	6.0
		0.8	2.0	2.0	1.2	
12	95.0	TiC	$Cr_2O_3$	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	5.0
		0.8	1.8	1.2	1.2	
13	99.0	TiC	$Cr_2O_3$	MgO	/ .	1.0
		0.4	0.4	0.2		
14	99.5	TiC	$Cr_2O_3$	MgO	/	0.5
····		0.2	0.1	0.2		
15	99.7	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	/	0.3
		0.1	0.1	0.1		
16	97.35	TiC	$Cr_2O_3$	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.65
		0.05	1.0	0.9	0.7	
17	97.35	TiC	$Cr_2O_3$	MgO	$Al_2O_3$	2.65
		1.0	0.05	0.9	0.7	
18	97.35	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	$Al_2O_3$	2.65
		1.0	0.9	0.05	0.7	
19	96.8	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
		2.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	
20	96.8	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>			3.2
		0.3	2.2	0.2	0.5	
21	96.8	TiC	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MgO	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	3.2
		0.2	0.3	2.2	0.5	

[0043]

[Table 4]

Table 4

Results of measurement with test piece Flexural Relative Charpy Sensorial color Electric No. strength density impact conduc- $(kg/mm^2)$ strength (8) tivity (kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>) L\* a\* b\*  $(\Omega^{-1}/cm)$ 5 118 95.3 0.203 40.3 +1.6 -2.1  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 6 123 96.6 0.213 42.6 +2.0 -1.2  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 7 150 98.8 0.289 43.2 +0.8 -0.1 $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 8 153 99.2 0.289 41.6  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ +0.9 +1.3 9 130 98.9 0.283 33.8 +1.4 -1.1  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 10 128 98.3 0.281 30.2 -0.8-1.2  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 11 104 94.8 0.200 48.0 -0.9  $7.0 \times 10^{-8}$ +1.1 12 158 98.7 0.288 42.8 +0.2  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ -0.3 13 128 98.2 0.280 43.1 +1.3 -0.6 $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 14 129 98.1 0.278 38.3 +0.6 +0.3 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> 15 122 93.2 0.158 51.3 +0.6 -0.8  $9.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 16 133 98.9 0.288 44.6 +2.4 +0.6  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 17 133 98.9 0.288 43.8 +2.6 -0.9  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 18 132 98.0 0.280 44.9 -0.8 +2.3  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 19 110 93.8 0.191 38.3 +0.6 +2.4  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 20 111 93.5 0.193 46.3 +2.2 -1.8  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 21 113 93.5 0.193 47.6 -2.3 +2.1  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ ☆5 131 98.3 0.283 38.9 +0.6 -1.3  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ ☆6 138 98.6 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> 0.285 41.8 +1.6 -1.1 ☆7 172 99.5 0.291  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 42.8 +2.0 -1.6 ☆8 175 99.5 0.293  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 40.1 +1.6 +0.8 ☆9 155 99.0 0.289 31.6 +1.6 -0.6  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ ☆10 153 99.0 0.288 30.0 -0.9-0.3  $4.0 \times 10^{-8}$ 

 $^{\ }$ 5 ~  $^{\ }$ 10 represent HIP-treated samples respectively of No. 5 ~ No. 10.

[0044] By the X-ray diffraction of these sinters, their  $\rm ZrO_2$  phases were found to comprise a tetragonal system and a monoclinic system and form a visually detectable peak of the relevant blackening agent.

[0045] It is clear from the results given above that in samples

containing the blackening agent in total amounts falling short of 0.5 weight %, though the magnitudes of flexural strength were invariably not less than 100 kg/cm², the degrees of blackening were insufficient and the ranges, L\* < 48, -2 < a\* < 2, -2 < b\* < 2, were not satisfied. In samples containing the blackening agent in total amounts exceeding 5 weight %, notwithstanding the sensorial colors were nearly the same as those of the samples having total amounts falling short of 5 weight %, such mechanical properties as relative density, flexural strength, and Charpy impact strength were degraded owing to the deterioration of the sintering property (Samples No. 11 and No. 15).

[0046] When the amount of any one of the components of the blackening agent fell short of 0.1 weight %, the coloring effect of that component was not easily manifested and the condition of the range of sensorial color designated by this invention was not fulfilled. Also when this amount exceeded 2.0 weight %, the sensorial color in the prescribed range was not obtained and the presence of partially uneven coloration due to the deficiency in dispersibility was detected (Samples No.  $16 \sim 21$ ).

[0047] (Example 3) Test pieces were prepared by mixing the same partially stabilized  $ZrO_2$  powder as in Example 1 and powdered blackening agents of varying compositions shown in Table 5 and forming and sintering the resultant mixtures under the same conditions as in Example 1. The test pieces were rated for crystal particle diameter in the same manner as in Example 1.

[0048] Then, part of the test pieces were further subjected to the same HIP treatment as in Example 1. The results of the treatment were similarly rated. The results are shown in Table 6.

[0049] By the X-ray analysis, the coexistence of the  $ZrO_2$  phases of the tetragonal system and the monoclinic system and the relevant blackening agent phase was confirmed and, in the samples No. 28 ~ 30,

the existence of  $NiAl_2O_4$  was observed.

[0050]

[Table 5]

Table 5

Composition of components (the numerals denominated in weight %)

		Blackening agent									
No.	ZrO <sub>2</sub>	First component	Second component	Third component	Fourth component	Subtotal					
22	97.5	TiC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5					
23	97.5	HfC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	CoO 0.9	/	2.5					
24	97.5	ZrC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	CoO 0.9	/	2.5					
25	97.5	HfC 0.6	MoO 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5					
26	97.5	HfC 0.6	WO₃ 1.0	NiO 0.9	. /	2.5					
27	97.5	HfC 0.6	Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5					
28	97.45	TiC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	NiO 0.9	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 0.05	2.55					
29	97.4	TiC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	NiO 0.9	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 0.1	2.6					
30	95.7	TiC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	NiO 0.9	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.8	4.3					
31	95.3	TiC 0.6	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	MgO 0.9	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 2.2	4.7					

[0051]

[Table 6]

Table 6

Results of measurement with test piece Average Flexural Relative Charpy Sensorial color Electric Crystal strength density impact conduc-No. particle  $(kg/mm^2)$ (8) strength tivity diameter (kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>)  $(\Omega^{-1}/cm)$ of Zro<sub>2</sub> (µm) L\* a\* b\* 22 1.1 128 98.0 0.281 43.1 +0.6 5.0×10<sup>-8</sup> +0.8 23 1.2 130 97.6 0.280 38.8 +0.1 5.0×10<sup>-8</sup> +0.8 24 1.1 126 97.6 0.280 44.1 +0.2 6.0×10<sup>-8</sup> +1.3 25 1.3 128 98.0 0.276 45.3 5.5×10<sup>-8</sup> +0.3 -0.4 26 1.1 130 98.3 0.282 44.3 -0.4 +0.1 5.0×10<sup>-8</sup> 27 1.2 128 98.2 0.278 42.8 +0.8 -0.1 5.5×10<sup>-8</sup> 28 1.1 131 98.3 0.284 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> 44.0 +0.8 -0.2 29 0.7 150 98.8 44.9 0.284 -0.2 +0.2 4.5×10<sup>-8</sup> 30 0.7 153 98.8 0.288 48.0 +0.1 +0.3 4.5×10<sup>-8</sup> 31 0.7 140 98.8 0.284 51.1 +0.9 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> +0.4 ☆22 1.3 153 98.8 0.289 36.9 +1.1 5.0×10<sup>-8</sup> +0.9 ☆23 1.3 155 99.0 0.280 39.0 -0.6 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> -0.4 ☆28 1.2 4.5×10<sup>-8</sup> 158 99.0 0.289 41.3 -0.2 +0.3 ☆29 0.8 180 99.6 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup> 0.294 40.0 +1.2 -0.8 ☆30 0.8 183 99.5 0.291 37.3 +1.1 +0.1 4.5×10<sup>-8</sup> ☆31 0.8 169 99.4 0.289 43.7 +2.0 -0.2 4.0×10<sup>-8</sup>

 $^{22}$  ~  $^{31}$  represent HIP-treated samples respectively of No. 22 ~ No. 31.

[0052] In the samples shown in the table, the samples No. 29 and No. 30 having added  $Al_2O_3$  thereto as a fourth component showed decreased crystal particle diameters of  $ZrO_2$  and consequently exalted flexural strength and Charpy impact strength as compared with the samples having avoided the addition.

[0053] No. 28 having an  $Al_2O_3$  content of less than 0.1 weight %, however, had nearly the same crystal particle diameter and consequently showed nearly the same flexural strength and Charpy impact strength

as No. 22 having avoided addition of this oxide.

[0054] Then, No. 31 having an  $Al_2O_3$  content exceeding 2 weight % had a small crystal particle diameter and yet suffered degradation of dispersibility and showed a discernible sign of uneven coloration on part of the surface similarly to Example 2.

[0055] (Example 4) The shaped pieces which had the compositions and the contours respectively of No. 3 and No. 4 of Example 1 were sintered under varying conditions shown in Table 7 to prepare test pieces of the same shape as in Example 1. The results of the rating of these test pieces are shown in Table 7.

[0056] [Table 7]

Table 7

	Tuble /										
		Sintering conditions Characteristic properties of test piece of sint									
No.	Compo-	Degree	Tempe-	Dura-	Flexural	Relative	Charpy	Charpy Sensorial o		color	
	sition	of	rature	tion	strength	density	impact				
		vacuum	(℃)	(Hr)	(kg/mm²)	(8)	strength	L*	a*	b*	
		(Torr)					(kgf/cm²)	i			
32	Same as	15	1500	3	94	92.1	0.131	43.6	-0.9	+0.8	
	No. 3										
33	Same as	10	1500	3	120	98.1	0.280	43.8	-1.0	+0.7	
<u></u>	No. 3		, 								
34	Same as	1	1500	3	128	98.4	0.261	40.1	-0.4	+1.0	
	No. 3	7									
35	Same as	10-2	1500	3	138	98.4	0.27	38.6	-0.1	+0.3	
	No. 3										
36	Same as	1	1250	3	96	92.7	0.133	53.8	-2.9	+0.5	
	No. 4					}					
37	Same as	1	1300	3	136	97.3	0.271	44.1	-1.7	+1.1	
	No. 4										
38	Same as	1	1500	3	149	98.8	0.271	43.0	-1.7	+0.8	
	No. 4										
39	Same as	1	1600	3	157	99.2	0.273	42.0	-1.8	+0.9	
	No. 4										
40	Same as	1	1650	3	96	92.6	0.149	54.1	-1.7	+2.1	
	No. 4							_			

[0057] It is clear from the results given above that in the samples having degrees of vacuum of not more than 10 Torr and using temperatures in the range of  $1300 \sim 1600^{\circ}$ C, the magnitudes of flexural strength and Charpy impact strength were respectively not less than  $120 \text{ kg/mm}^2$  and not less than  $0.260 \text{ kgf/mm}^2$  and the blackened color tones were smooth and uniform in blackness.

[0058] (Example 5) The sinters of No. 34 and No. 38 of Example 4 were further subjected to the HIP treatment under varying conditions shown in Table 8 and then worked to obtain test pieces of the same shape as in Example 1. The test pieces were rated in the same manner as in Example 4. The results are shown in Table 8.

[0059]

[Table 8]

Table 8

	$\overline{}$				<u> </u>	pTe 8							
No.	Sinter sample used in HIP		HIP conditions				Characteristic properties of sinter test piece						
		Degree of	Tempe- rature	Press- ure	Dura- tion	Flexural strength	Relative density	Charpy impact	Sens	orial	color		
		vacuum (Torr)	(°C)	(kg/cm²)	(hr)	(kg/mm²	(%)	strength (kgf/cm²)	L*	a*	b*		
41	Same as No. 34	15	1400	1000	3	128	97.8	0.261	40.1	-0.4	+1.0		
42	Same as No. 34	10	1400	1000	3	163	99.6	0.282	43.8	-0.4	+0.9		
43	Same as No. 34	1	1400	1000	3	171	99.6	0.282	44.6	-0.6	+0.9		
44	Same as No. 34	10 <sup>-2</sup>	1400	1000	3	183	99.7	0.282	40.3	-1.1	+0.8		
45	Same as No. 38	1	1250	1000	3	153	98.8	0.271	43.0	-1.6	+0.8		
46	Same as No. 38	1	1300	1000	3	178	99.4	0.283	40.6	-1.3	+0.6		
47	Same as No. 38	1	1400	1000	3	181	99.6	0.289	43.1	-1.3	+0.8		
48	Same as No. 38	1	1600	1000	3	· 183	99.7	0.289	42.9	-1.2	+0.8		
49	Same as No. 38	1	1650	1000	3	147	98.9	0.271	44.1	-1.1	+0.5		
50	Same as No. 38	1	1400	150	3	150	98.9	0.273	42.8	-1.1	+0.2		
51	Same as No. 38	1	1400	200	3	173	99.1	0.283	43.6	-0.8	+1.2		
52	Same as No. 38	1	1400	500	3	177	99.3	0.286	40.1	-0.6	+1.1		

[0060] It is clear from the results given above that the samples which had undergone the HIP under the conditions of not more than 10 Torrs in degree of vacuum,  $1300 \sim 1600^{\circ}$ C in temperature, and not less than  $200 \text{ kg/cm}^2$  in pressure acquired improvements in density of texture and showed conspicuously additions to the magnitudes of flexural strength and Charpy impact strength as compared from those existing at the time of sintering.

[0061]

[Effect of the Invention] As demonstrated above, it is made possible by this invention to provide black zirconia ceramics which are endowed with enhanced smoothness, sensation of depth, and uniform tint without sacrificing the characteristic feature of copious density and high strength inherent in zirconia ceramics.

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(54) 【発明の名称】 黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体およびその製造方法

# (57)【要約】

【目的】 時計枠、ネクタイピンなどの黒色装飾部材として用いられる黒色ジルコニアセラミックスにおいて、ジルコニアセラミックスの高強度性を損なう事なく、より滑らかで深みのある均一に着色された黒色ジルコニアセラミックスを提供する。

【構成】 部分安定化ZrO2粉末を $95\sim99.5$ 重量%と、黒色化剤として、炭化物と酸化物の各々少なくとも 1種を $0.1\sim2.0$ 重量%、合計にして $0.5\sim5.0$ 重量%添加し、これらを混合した粉末を $10Torr以下の真空中において<math>1300\sim1600$ ℃の範囲で焼結して相対密度93%以上とすることにより、JISZ8729に基づく感覚色で $L^*<48$ 、 $-2<a^*<2、-2<b^*<2$ の範囲の黒色で、曲げ強度が100kg/mm²以上の黒色ジルコニアセラミック焼結体を得る。

## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 部分安定化ジルコニアを主成分とし、黒色化剤として、炭化物と酸化物の各々を少なくとも1種含有する焼結体において、JISZ8729に基づく感覚色で $L^{\bullet}$ <48、-2< $a^{\bullet}$ <2、-2< $b^{\bullet}$ <2の範囲の黒色を呈し、曲げ強度が100 kg/mm²以上の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体。

【請求項2】 前記黒色化剤として、第1成分に第IVa族の炭化物、第2成分に第Va族、第VIa族の酸化物、第3成分に第IIa族、第VIII族の酸化物を各々少なくとも1種を各々0.1~2.0重量%、合計にして0.5~5.0重量%含む事を特徴とする請求項1に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体。

【請求項3】 前記黒色化剤として、第1成分にTiC,HfCの内の少なくとも1種、第2成分にCr,Mo,W,V,Taの内の少なくとも1種の酸化物、第3成分にFe,Co,Ni,Mgの内の少なくとも1種以上の酸化物を各々0.1~2.0重量%、合計にして0.5~5.0重量%含む事を特徴とする請求項1又は2に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体。

【請求項4】 前記黒色ジルコニアセラミックスに第4 成分としてA12O3を0.1~2.0重量%含む事を特徴とする請求項第2又は3に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体。

【請求項5】 部分安定化ZrOz粉末を $95\sim99.5$ 重量%と、黒色化剤として、炭化物と酸化物の各々少なくとも1種を $0.1\sim2.0$ 重量%、合計にして $0.5\sim5.0$ 重量%添加し、これらを混合した粉末を10Torr以下の真空中において $1300\sim1600$ ℃の範囲で焼結し、相対密度93%以上の焼結体を得る事を特徴とする請求項1乃至4に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法。

【請求項6】 前記黒色化剤として、第1成分に第IVa族の炭化物、第2成分に第Va族、第VIa族の酸化物、第3成分に第IIa族、第VIII族の酸化物を各々少なくとも1種を各々0.1~2.0重量%、合計にして0.5~5.0重量%添加することを特徴とする請求項5に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法。

【請求項7】 前記黒色化剤として、第1成分にTiC、HfCの内の少なくとも1種、第2成分にCr,Mo,W,V,Taの内の少なくとも1種の酸化物、第3成分にFe,Co,Ni,Mgの内の少なくとも1種の酸化物を添加する事を特徴とする請求項5又は6に記載の黒色ジルコニア焼結体の製造方法。

【請求項8】 前記黒色ジルコニア焼結体に第4成分としてA12O3を0.1~2.0重量%混合する事を特徴とする請求項6又は7に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法。

【請求項9】 前記黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法において、焼結の後に200kg/cm²以

上の加圧下、1300~1600℃にて熱間静水圧プレスする焼結工程を含む事を特徴とする請求項5乃至8に記載の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

### [0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、黒色ジルコニア焼結体を用いた部材、例えば、スパイク、時計枠、時計バンド、ネクタイピン、ボタンなどの黒色装飾部材に関する。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】ジルコニア焼結体は、靭性、曲げ強度などの機械特性が優れている為に、広範囲な分野の用途が期待されている。特に、色調を黒色化させたジルコニア焼結体は、例えば、時計枠、時計バンド、ネクタイピン、ボタンなどの装飾用として用いられている。

【0003】高強度 $ZrO_2$ の着色技術については種々の試みがなされている。その手段としては $ZrO_2$ に着色成分を加える方法が主体である。

【0004】例えば(1)特開昭60-90872号公報には安定化したZrO2に少量の炭素を加えた還元性雰囲気中で焼結し炭素および炭化ジルコニウムを生成させた黒色ZrO2が開示されている。又、(2)炭素をZrO2成形体の周囲に配置して非酸化性雰囲気中で焼成して炭素を含浸させ前記公報(1)と同様炭素および炭化ジルコニウムを生成させ黒色化したZrO2が特開昭63-100059号公報に、さらに(3)類似の方法でさらに周期律表IVa, Va, VIa, VIIa, VIIIa族元素の金属配化物着色成分を加えた事例が特公平7-12978号公報に記載されている。又、(4)類似の酸化物からなる着色剤を炭素とともに添加するものが特公平3-9062号公報に開示されている。

【0005】さらに(5)  $Y_2O_3$ 等の安定化剤を加えた  $ZrO_2$ 焼結体を還元性雰囲気中で処理すると1200  $\mathbb{C}$ 以上で黒色化した  $ZrO_2$ のえられることが特公平 3-67983 号に記載されている。

#### [0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】以上述べた従来の技術の中で(1)~(4)については焼結体中に炭素が単体で残留し、特に表面に比べ内部に多くなるため黒色化の程度に差が生じ易い。又(5)についても焼結体の表面と内部での還元状況に差が生じ易いため着色の均一化に問題が残る。

【0007】本発明は、上記問題点を鑑みて鋭意研究の末、なされたものであり、ジルコニアセラミックスの高強度性を損なう事なく、より滑らかで深みのある均一に着色した黒色ジルコニアセラミックス、及びその製造方法を提供するものである。

#### [0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するため、この発明は、部分安定化ジルコニアを主成分とし、

黒色化剤として、炭化物と酸化物の各々を少なくとも 1 種含有する焼結体において、JISZ8729に基づく感覚色で $L^*$ <48、-2< $a^*$ <2、-2< $b^*$ <2の範囲の黒色を呈し、曲げ強度が 100 k g/mm²以上の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体としたものである。

【0009】また、本発明の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法としては、部分安定化 $ZrO_2$ 粉末を $95\sim99.5$ 重量%と、黒色化剤として、炭化物と酸化物の各々少なくとも1種を $0.1\sim2.0$ 重量%、合計にして $0.5\sim5.0$ 重量%添加し、これらを混合した粉末を $10Torr以下の真空中において<math>1300\sim1600$ での範囲で焼結し、相対密度93%以上の黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体を得るものである。

【0010】なお、本発明で用いる前記黒色化剤としては、第1成分に第IVa族の炭化物、第2成分に第Va族、第VIa族の酸化物、第3成分に第IIa族、第VIII族の酸化物の少なくとも1種を各々0.1~2.0重量%、合計にして0.5~5.0重量%含むのが好ましい。

【0011】更に、上記第1成分にはTiC,HfCの少なくとも1種、第2成分にはCr,Mo,W, V, T aの内の少なくとも1種の酸化物、第3成分にはFe,Co,Ni,Mgの内の少なくとも1種以上の酸化物を用いるのが好ましく、第4成分として $Al_2O_3$ を0.1~2.0重量%混合するようにすることもできる。

【0012】又、前記黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の製造方法において、焼結の後に $200 \, \mathrm{k} \, \mathrm{g/m} \, \mathrm{m}^2$ 以上の加圧下、 $1300 \sim 1600 \, \mathrm{C}$ にて熱間静水圧プレスする焼結工程を含ませることもできる。

[0013]

【作用】本発明による黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体は、安定化剤として公知の材質を用いたセラミックスであり、安定化剤としては例えば $Y_2O_3$ ,  $CeO_2$ が適切である。

【0014】ジルコニアセラミックスは固相焼結するが、安定化剤以外に黒色化剤を添加する場合、ジルコニア粉末の割合が95重量%未満であれば、優れた機械特性の焼結体が得られず、99.5重量%を越えると、着色効果が不十分となる。

【0015】ジルコニアセラミックスを黒色化させる為に黒色化剤として、金属酸化物、あるいは金属炭化物等を単独添加すると、一般的に多量の黒色化剤を加える必要があり、その為に焼結性が悪くなり、機械特性が劣化する傾向にある。この為に、できるだけ少量の添加剤でジルコニアセラミックスを効果的に黒色化させる必要がある。

【0016】本発明によれば、金属炭化物および金属酸化物を同時に加える事が重要である。両者を添加する事により、少ない添加剤で効果的にジルコニアセラミック

スを均一に黒色化させる事が可能である。

【0017】この場合、第1成分としての炭化物は、第 IVa族のものがよく含有量は $0.1\sim2.0$ 重量%とする。第IVa族の中でも、特にTi,Hfが好適である。【0018】また、酸化物としては含有量は $0.1\sim2.0$ 重量%とし、第Va族、第VIa族の酸化物を第2成分として、さらに第IIa族、第VIII族の元素の酸化物を第3成分として選びそれぞれの成分の少なくとも1種を選定する必要がある。特に、第2成分としてはCr,Mo,W,V,Taが、第3成分としてはFe,Co,Ni,Mgが好適である。

【0019】以上の第1~第3成分の量は合計にして 0.5~5.0重量%添加する。各成分とも0.1重量 %未満であると、添加の効果がなく、2.0重量%を越 えると、他の添加剤との分散状態が悪くなり着色の滑ら かさが低下する。また、これらの黒色化剤が合計で0. 5重量%未満であれば均一な黒色調にはなるが本発明の 意図する深く滑らかな着色の効果が現れにくくなり、 5.0重量%を越えるとそれ以上の着色の効果がえられ ず、逆に焼結性が低下し、その為に機械的特性が変化す

ず、逆に焼結性が低下し、その為に機械的特性が劣化する。更に、場合によっては黒色系以外の色を示す事もあり、本発明で開示した感覚色の範囲を逸脱する場合がある。

【0020】また、A1203を添加するのは、黒色化剤を多く添加すると、それだけでは場合によっては粒成長が著しくなる為に、その抑制剤として使用するのである。

【0021】本発明による黒色ジルコニアセラミックス 焼結体は、以上の酸化物と炭化物を含むが、炭化物と酸 化物との化合物、あるいは酸化物同志の反応による複合 化合物が形成されていても構わない。

【0022】次に本発明による焼結とHIPの効果を説明する。

【0023】本発明の場合、100kg/mm²以上の抗折力を持った黒色ジルコニアを作成する為には、10 Torr以下の真空度で焼結しなければならない。10 Torrよりも低い真空度で焼結を行なうと、焼結体の表面が酸化されて白色を呈する傾向がある。

【0024】焼結の温度条件としては、1300~16 00℃が好ましい。これは、1300℃未満では緻密化 が不十分であり、また1600℃を越えると焼結体の粒 成長が著しく、かつ強度の低下が大きい為である。

【0025】更に、抗折力100kg/mm<sup>2</sup>以上の焼結体を得る為には、相対密度が93%以上になるように焼結する必要がある。

【0026】又、焼結後さらにHIPをする場合の条件についても、同様の理由により温度は $1300\sim160$ 0 $^{\circ}$ の範囲内で行ない、 $200kg/cm^2$ 以上の加圧下で行なう必要がある。これは、 $200kg/cm^2$ 未満の圧力下であると、焼結時に残った焼結体中の気孔を

効果的に除去できずに、緻密化できないからである。

【0027】本発明の黒色化したジルコニアセラミックス焼結体の黒色化の程度を感覚色で定義すると、JISZ8729によって規定されている $L^*a^*b^*$ 表色系によれば、 $L^*<48$ 、 $-2<a^*<2$ 、 $-2<b^*<2$ の範囲を満たす色でなければならない。

【0028】ここで、L\*は明度、a\*、b\*は色度を表わすもので、L\*の値が高くなれば白くなり、a\*が高くなれば赤、低くなれば緑色を帯び、b\*が高くなれば黄色、低くなれば青色を帯びる。

【0029】被測定物の感覚色は、被測定物の表面粗さに依存する。この為、本発明で開示している値は、被測定物の表面粗さが、Ra<0.02μmの条件を満たす場合の感覚色を示している。

【0030】被測定物の表面粗さが粗くなると、感覚色、特に明度 $L^*$ が低下する。例えば、本発明で開示している黒色ジルコニアセラミックス焼結体をRa<0. 02 $\mu$ mの面粗さに加工して感覚色を測定すると、 $L^*$ <48、-2< $a^*$ <2、-2< $b^*$ <2となるが、同じ焼結体を、Ra=0. 5 $\mu$ mの面粗さになるように加工すると、その感覚色は、 $L^*$ は約16ほど値が低下する。

【0031】また、 $Ra<0.02\mu$ mの条件下で、よ

り深みのある滑らかな黒色の度合いは、 $L^*$ <46、-0. 3< $a^*$ <0. 3、-0. 3< $b^*$ <0. 3 である。 【0032】

#### 【実施例】

(実施例 1) Y2 O3 を含有した部分安定化 Z r O2 粉末 (平均粒径 0.4  $\mu$ m) と表 1 に示す組合せの黒色化剤 粉末 (いずれも平均粒径 0.6  $\mu$ m) をそれぞれ混合し 混合粉末を 5 0 0 k g/ c m<sup>2</sup> の圧力で成形して、 5 m m (幅) × 4 5 mm (長さ) × 4 mm (厚み) の型押体 を得た。

【0033】この型押体を $10^{-2}$  Torrの真空炉で温度  $15\cdot00$   $\mathbb{C}\times3$  時間焼結した。又、一部の試料は更にアルゴンガス中 1000 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>の圧力下で 1400  $\mathbb{C}\times1$  時間 HIP を行なった。

【0034】このようにして得られた焼結体を4mm(幅) $\times36mm$ (長さ) $\times3mm$ (厚み)の試験片に研磨加工し、曲げ強度、相対密度および電気伝導度を測定した。又、試験片の表面粗さを $Ra<0.02\mum$ になるよう加工して感覚色を測定した。その結果を表2に示す。

[0035]

【表1】

表 1

167	$\triangle$	\$F	ь¢	(数值	1十年	日	96
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No.	ZrO2		黒 色	化剤	
INCL	ZrOz	第1成分	第2成分	第3成分	第4成分
* 1	97.0	TiC 3.0	/		/
* 2	97.0		Cr2O3 2.0	MgO 1.0	/
3	97.0	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.4	MgO 1.0	
4	96.8	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7

\*は比較例

[0036]

【表2】

表 2 試験片での測定結果

No.	曲げ強度	相対密度		1	3	電気伝導度	
No.	(kg/mm²)	(%)	衡擊值 (kgf/cm²)	L*	а*	ъ*	(Ω <sup>-l</sup> /cm)
*1	82	90.3	0.103	52.9	- 1.6	+ 1.9	$2.6 \times 10^{-6}$
* 2	91	91.4	0.141	54.6	- 1.3	+ 1.9	$8.7 \times 10^{-8}$
3	126	98.3	0.281	43.1	- 1.1	+ 0.8	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
4	153	99.0	0.289	43.9	- 1.8	+ 1.1	$4.0\times10^{-8}$
☆3	159	99.4	0.293	42.6	- 1.6	+ 2.0	$4.0\times10^{-8}$
☆4	181	99.6	0.296	42.1	- 1.2	+ 1.6	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$

\*は比較例 ☆3,☆4はM3,M4のHIP処理試料

【0037】尚、これらの焼結体のX線回析パターンを確認した結果、正方晶系及び単斜晶系のZrO2のピー

クと各黒色化剤のピークが検出された。

【0038】以上の結果より、黒色化剤として炭化物の

みを加えたNo.1については、黒色化の程度が十分でなく、また表面の一部に色むらが認めら、また曲げ強度も低い。又、酸化物のみを加えたNo.2についても、 黒色化の程度が十分でないだけでなく、曲げ強度も低い。

【0039】更に、 $\diamondsuit3$ 、 $\diamondsuit4$ のように、焼結体にさらにHIP処理を行なったものはそれぞれ対応するNo. 3、No. 4の焼結体に比べ、相対密度が向上しており、より緻密化している。この為、曲げ強度及びシャルビー衝撃値はより向上している。又、電気伝導度は試料No. 1以外は $10^{-7}$   $\Omega^{-1}$  / c m以下であった。

【0040】 (実施例 2) 実施例 1 と同様の部分安定化  $ZrO_2$ 粉末と表 3 に示す組合せの黒色化剤粉末 (いずれも平均粒径  $0.6\mu m$ ) をそれぞれ混合した混合粉末を実施例 1 同様の条件で成形、焼結した。又、一部の試料については更に実施例 1 と同様の条件でHIPを行なった。

【0041】このようにして得られた焼結体を実施例1 と同様の試験片とし、実施例1と同様の特性確認を行なった。その結果を表4に示す。

[0042]

【表3】

配 合 組 成 (数値は重量%)

	配	台 組 人	<u> </u>	双値は里面	
7-00		黒 色	化 剤		
ZrO2	第1成分	第2成分	第3成分	第4成分	小計
96.8	WC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7	3.2
96.8	TaC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7	3.2
96.8	HfC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7	3.2
96.8	TiC 0.6	V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	Fe2Os 0.9	A12O8 0.7	3.2
97.5	TiC 0.6	V <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.0	Fe2Oa 0.9		2.5
97.5	HfC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9		2.5
94.0	TiC 0.8	Cr2O3 2.0	MgO 2.0	Al2O3 1.2	6.0
95.0	TiC 0.8	Cr2O3 1.8	MgO 1.2	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> 1.2	5.0
99.0	TiC 0.4	Cr2O3 0.4	MgO 0.2	/	1.0
99.5	TiC 0.2	Cr2O3 0.1	MgO 0.2	/	0.5
99.7	TiC 0.1	Cr2O3 0.1	MgO 0.1	/	0.3
97.35	TiC 0.05	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7	2.65
97.35	TiC 1.0	Cr2O3 0.05	MgO 0.9	A12O3 0.7	2.65
97.35	TiC 1.0	Cr2O3 0.9	MgO 0.05	A12O3 0.7	2.65
96.8	TiC 2.2	Cr2O3 0.3	MgO 0.2	A12O3 0.5	3.2
96.8	TiC 0.3	Cr2O3 2.2	MgO 0.2	A12O3 0.5	3.2
96.8	TiC 0.2	Cr2O3 0.3	MgO 2.2	Al2Os 0.5	3.2
	96.8 96.8 96.8 97.5 97.5 94.0 95.0 99.0 99.5 99.7 97.35 97.35 96.8	第1成分 96.8 WC 0.6 96.8 TaC 0.6 96.8 HfC 0.6 96.8 TiC 0.6 97.5 TiC 0.6 97.5 HfC 0.8 95.0 TiC 0.8 99.0 TiC 0.4 99.5 TiC 0.2 99.7 TiC 0.1 97.35 TiC 0.1 97.35 TiC 0.05 97.35 TiC 1.0 96.8 TiC 2.2 96.8 TiC 0.3	第1成分 第2成分       96.8     WC Cr2O3 1.0       96.8     TaC Cr2O3 0.6       96.8     HfC Cr2O3 1.0       96.8     TiC V2O3 0.6       96.8     TiC V2O3 0.6       97.5     TiC V2O3 0.6       97.5     TiC Cr2O3 0.6       94.0     TiC Cr2O3 0.6       95.0     TiC Cr2O3 0.8       99.0     TiC Cr2O3 0.4       99.7     TiC Cr2O3 0.4       99.7     TiC Cr2O3 0.1       97.35     TiC Cr2O3 0.1       97.35     TiC Cr2O3 0.1       97.35     TiC Cr2O3 0.05       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.9       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.9       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.2       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.3       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.3       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.3       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.3       96.8     TiC Cr2O3 0.3	第1成分 第2成分 第3成分       96.8     WC	第1成分   第2成分   第3成分   第4成分   96.8   WC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.6   1.0   0.9   0.7   96.8   TaC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.6   1.0   0.9   0.7   96.8   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.6   1.0   0.9   0.7   96.8   TiC   V2O3   Fe2O3   Al2O3   0.6   1.0   0.9   0.7   97.5   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.6   1.0   0.9   0.7   97.5   HfC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.8   2.0   2.0   1.2   95.0   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.8   1.8   1.2   1.2   99.0   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.4   0.4   0.2   0.1   0.1   0.1   97.35   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.05   1.0   0.9   0.7   97.35   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.05   1.0   0.9   0.7   97.35   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   1.0   0.05   0.9   0.7   97.35   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   1.0   0.05   0.9   0.7   96.8   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.2   0.5   96.8   TiC   Cr2O3   MgO   Al2O3   0.2   0.5

【表4】

ā	支 4	Į						
試験	片	で	Ø	測	定	結	果	

No	曲げ強度	相対密度			惑 覚 包	<u>t</u> ,	電気伝導度
No.	(kg/mm²)	(%)	衡擊值 (kgf/cm²)	L*	a*	ъ*	$(\Omega^{-1}/cm)$
5	118	95.3	0.203	40.3	+ 1.6	- 2.1	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
6	123	96.6	0.213	42.6	+ 2.0	- 1.2	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
7	150	98.8	0.289	43.2	+ 0.8	- 0.1	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
8	153	99.2	0.289	41.6	+ 0.9	+ 1.3	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
9	130	98.9	0.283	33.8	+ 1.4	- 1.1	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
10	128	98.3	0.281	30.2	- 0.8	- 1.2	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
11	104	94.8	0.200	48.0	- 0.9	+ 1.1	$7.0 \times 10^{-8}$
12	158	98.7	0.288	42.8	+ 0.2	- 0.3	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
13	128	98.2	0.280	43.1	+ 1.3	- 0.6	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
14	129	98.1	0.278	38.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
15	122	93.2	0.158	51.3	+ 0.6	- 0.8	9.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
16	133	98.9	0.288	44.6	+ 2.4	+ 0.6	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
17	133	98.9	0.288	43.8	+ 2.6	- 0.9	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
18	132	98.0	0.280	44.9	- 0.8	+ 2.3	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
19	110	93.8	0.191	38.3	+ 0.6	+ 2.4	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
20	111	93.5	0.193	46.3	+ 2.2	- 1.8	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
21	113	98.5	0.193	47.6	- 2.3	+ 2.1	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
<b>☆</b> 5	131	98.3	0.283	38.9	+ 0.6	- 1.3	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>☆</b> 6	138	98.6	0.285	41.8	+ 1.6	- 1.1	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$
<b>☆</b> 7	172	99.5	0.291	42.8	+ 2.0	- 1.6	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>☆8</b>	175	99.5	0.293	40.1	+ 1.6	+ 0.8	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>☆</b> 9	155	99.0	0.289	31.6	+ 1.6	- 0.6	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>☆10</b>	153	99.0	0.288	30.0	- 0.9	- 0.3	$4.0\times10^{-8}$

☆5~☆10はMo5~Mo10のそれぞれ HIP 処理試料

【0044】これらの焼結体のX線回析より、ZrO₂ 相は正方晶系及び単斜晶系からなり、各黒色化剤のビー クが検出された。

【0045】以上の結果より黒色化剤の合計量が0.5 重量%に満たない場合には、曲げ強度は $100 \, \mathrm{kg/c}$   $\mathrm{m}^2$ 以上を示すが、黒色化の度合いが不十分で、 $\mathrm{L}^*$  < 48、-2 <  $a^*$  < 2、-2 <  $b^*$  < 2 を満たさず、又、5 重量%を越えると、感覚色は5 重量%以下の場合と殆ど 差異がないにもかかわらず焼結性が劣化する為に、相対 密度、曲げ強度、シャルビー衝撃値のような機械特性が 低下していることがわかる(試料 $\mathrm{No}$ . 11 および15)。

【0046】又、黒色化剤各成分の量が1成分でも0. 1重量%に満たないと、その成分の着色効果が現れにく く、本発明で開示した感覚色の範囲の条件を満たさず、 2.0重量%を越えても、同じように所定の範囲の感覚 色が得られず、又、分散性が悪くなる為に一部色むらが存在していることがわかる(試料 $No.16\sim21$ )。 【0047】 (実施例3) 実施例1と同じ部分安定化 $2rO_2$ 粉末と黒色化剤各成分からなる表5に示す組合せの粉末をそれぞれ混合し、実施例1と同じ条件で成形・

【0048】又、一部のものについては更に実施例1と同様のHIP処理を行なった。これについても同様の評価を行なった。その結果を表6に示す。

焼結し、同様の試験片を作り結晶粒径及び実施例1と同

【0049】X線で確認したところ正方晶系と単斜晶系の $ZrO_2$ 相及び各黒色化剤相が共存しており、複合物相として試料No.  $28\sim30$ ではNiAl $_2O_4$ が観察された。

[0050]

様の評価を行なった。

【表5】

表 5

			(数値は重量%)			
No.	ZrO2		黒 色	化 剤		
		第1成分	第2成分	第3成分	第4成分	小計
22	97.5	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5
23	97.5	HfC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	CoO 0.9	/	2.5
24	97.5	ZrC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	CoO 0.9	/	2.5
25	97.5	HfC 0.6	MoO 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5
26	97.5	HfC 0.6	WОз 1.0	NiO 0.9	/	2.5
27	97.5	HfC 0.6	Ta <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	NiO 0.9	/	2.5
28	97.45	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	NiO 0.9	A12O3 0.05	2.55
29	97.4	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	NiO 0.9	A12O8 0.1	2.6
30	95.7	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	NiO 0.9	A12O3 1.8	4.3
31	95.3	TiC 0.6	Cr2O3 1.0	MgO 0.9	A12O3 2.2	4.7

[0051]

【表 6 】

表 6 試験片での測定結果

試験片での測定結果										
No.	ZrO2の 平均 結晶粒径 (μm)	曲げ強度	相対密度	シャルピー		8 覚	電気伝導度			
		(kg/mm²)	(%)	(kgf/cm²)		a *	b*	$(\Omega^{-1}/cm)$		
22	1.1	128	98.0	0.281	43.1	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	$5.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
23	1.2	130	97.6	0.280	38.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.8	$5.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
24	1.1	126	97.6	0.280	44.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	$6.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
25	1.3	128	98.0	0.276	45.3	+ 0.3	- 0.4	$5.5 \times 10^{-8}$		
26	1.1	130	98.3	0.282	44.3	- 0.4	+ 0.1	$5.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
27	1.2	128	98.2	0.278	42.8	+ 0.8	- 0.1	$5.5 \times 10^{-8}$		
28	1.1	131	98.3	0.284	44.0	+ 0.8	- 0.2	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
29	0.7	150	98.8	0.284	44.9	- 0.2	+ 0.2	4.5 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>		
30	0.7	153	98.8	0.288	48.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	$4.5 \times 10^{-8}$		
31	0.7	140	98.8	0.284	51.1	+ 0.9	+ 0.4	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>		
☆22	1.3	153	98.8	0.289	36.9	+ 1.1	+ 0.9	5.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>		
<b>☆23</b>	1.3	155	99.0	0.280	39.0	- 0.6	- 0.4	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
<b>☆28</b>	1.2	158	99.0	0.289	41.3	- 0.2	+ 0.3	4.5 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>		
<b>☆</b> 29	8.0	180	99.6	0.294	40.0	+ 1.2	- 0.8	$4.0 \times 10^{-8}$		
<b>☆</b> 30	0.8	183	99.5	0.291	37.3	+ 1.1	+ 0.1	$4.5 \times 10^{-8}$		
<b>☆</b> 31	0.8	169	99.4	0.289	43.7	+ 2.0	- 0.2	4.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>		

☆ 22~☆ 31 はそれぞれ No. 22~ No. 31 の HIP 処理試料

【0052】このうち第4成分としてA12O3を加えた 試料No. 29, 30については、加えないものに比べて2rO2の結晶粒径は小さくなっており、それにより

曲げ強度、シャルピー衝撃値も高くなっている。 【0053】但しA12O3量が0.1重量%未満のN0.28では結晶粒径は添加しなN0.22とほとん

ど変わりなく、曲げ強度、シャルピー衝撃値もほとんど 変わらない。

【0054】更に、A12O3量が2重量%を越えたN o. 31では粒径は小さいものの、実施例2と同様に、 分散性が悪くなり、表面の一部には色むらが観察され

【0055】 (実施例4) 実施例1のNo.3とNo. 4の組成及び形状の成形体を表7の各種焼結条件で焼結 し、実施例1と同形状の試験片を準備した。その評価結 果を同じ表7に示す。

[0056] 【表7】

表 7												
		焼結条件			烧結体試験片特性							
Na.	組成	真空度	温度	時間	曲げ強度	相対密度	シャルピー	Ā	2 党	色		
		(Torr)	(°C)	(Hr)	(kg/mm²)	(%)	(hgf/cm²)	L*	a*	b*		
32	№3に同じ	15	1500	3	94	92.1	0.131	43.6	- 0.9	+ 0.8		
33	"	10	1500	3	120	98.1	0.280	43.8	- 1.0	+ 0.7		
34	"	1	1500	3	128	98.4	0.261	40.1	- 0.4	+ 1.0		
35	"	10-2	1500	3	138	98.4	0.27	38.6	- 0.1	+ 0.3		
36	No.4に同じ	1	1250	3	96	92.7	0.133	53.8	- 2.9	+ 0.5		
37	"	1	1300	3	136	97.3	0.271	44.1	- 1.7	+ 1.1		
38	"	1	1500	3	149	98.8	0.271	43.0	- 1.7	+ 0.8		
39	"	1	1600	3	157	99.2	0.273	42.0	- 1.8	+ 0.9		
40	"	1	1650	3	96	92.6	0.149	54.1	- 1.7	+ 2.1		

【0057】この結果より、真空度は10Torr以 下、温度は1300~1600℃の場合、曲げ強度、シ ャルピー衝撃値ともにそれぞれ120kg/mm²以 上、0.260kgf/mm<sup>2</sup>以上の値が得られ、又、 黒色化の色調についても滑らかでかつ均一な黒色のもの が得られることがわかる。

【0058】 (実施例5) 実施例4のNo. 34、N o.38の焼結体を更に表8に示す各種条件でHIP処 理し、実施例1と同じ形状の試験片とし実施例4と同様 の評価を行なった。その結果を表8に示す。

[0059]

【表8】

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表 8												
No.	HIPに 用いた 焼結体 試料	HIP条件				烧結体試験片特性						
		真空度	温度	圧力	時間	曲げ強度	相対密度	シャハビー 衝撃値	恩	复	色	
		(Torr)	(°C)	(kg/cm²)	(Hr)	(kg/mm²)		(kgf/cm)	L*	a*	b*	
41	No34に同じ	15	1400	1000	3	128	97.8	0.261	40.1	- 0.4	+ 1.0	
42	"	10	1400	1000	3	163	99.6	0.282	43.8	- 0.4	+ 0.9	
43	. //	1	1400	1000	თ	171	99.6	0.282	44.6	- 0.6	+ 0.9	
44	"	10 <sup>-2</sup>	1400	1000	3	183	99.7	0.282	40.3	- 1.1	+ 0.8	
45	10回38に同じ	1	1250	1000	3	153	98.8	0.271	43.0	- 1.6	+ 0.8	
46	"	1	1300	1000	3	178	99.4	0.283	40.8	- 1.3	+ 0.8	
47	"	1	1400	1000	3	181	99.6	0.289	43.1	- 1.3	+ 0.8	
48	"	1	1600	1000	3	183	99.7	0.289	42.9	- 1.2	+ 0.8	
49	"	1	1650	1000	3	147	98.9	0.271	44.1	- 1.1	+ 0.5	
50	"	1	1400	150	3	150	98.9	0.273	42.8	- 1.1	+ 0.2	
51	"	1	1400	200	3	173	99.1	0.283	43.6	- 0.8	+ 1.2	
52	"	1	1400	500	3	177	99.3	0.286	40.1	- 0.6	+ 1.1	

【0060】この結果より真空度10Torr以下、温 度1300~1600℃、圧力200kg/cm²以上 の条件でHIPを行なうことによってより緻密なものが

得られ、曲げ強度、シャルピー衝撃値ともに焼結時点よ り顕著に改善されることがわかる。

[0061]

【発明の効果】以上のように、本発明により、ジルコニ アセラミックスの緻密で高強度という特性を損なう事な

く、より滑らかで深みのある均一に着色された黒色ジル コニアセラミックス焼結体を提供する事ができる。